

SCROOGE

Family Activity Guide

Parents,

We hope you enjoy the Scrooge podcast as part of your Christmas traditions. We created this fun Family Activity Guide to help you make the most of the experience. Each of the four Scrooge episodes has an interactive object lesson to guide your family into meaningful discussions through fun activities.

Each activity includes a Big Idea, Key Scriptures, an Activity Supply List, Set the Stage with Scrooge discussion questions, and the Activity Plan. No one knows your family like you, so be sure to adapt these ideas in a way that fits your family best. In whatever way you choose to use this resource, here are our top tips for making your time together fun, fruitful, and memorable.

Pray before you begin – Ask the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom as you respond to your kid’s questions and insights and for hearts prepared to receive God’s truth.

Plan ahead – The activities will need supplies gathered and prepared. Kids do best when that is all done before they join you. You may also want to do a test run on the science-based activity.

Keep it Simple – The plan we offer has all the details you need to be focused on one main idea. If it is too much for your age group, simplify it even more by choosing only one activity per session.

Make it Fun – Kids learn more by having fun than at any other time. So, don’t stress. It’s okay if they have the wiggles or get excited. The more fun they have, the more they will remember.

Let them Talk – It is easy to let ourselves slip into giving a lecture to our kids, but this is a time for them to give their ideas and for parents to listen as well as guide.

Be Flexible – While having a plan is important, be prepared that your plan might take a few turns. Embrace the unpredictable and enjoy the time as it unfolds with your kids.

Be Patient – Remember that while we can share truth with our children, only God can open spiritual eyes. This is just one step in how God is working in the lives of your children.

The story of Scrooge holds a special place in the hearts of generations of families just like yours. We are so pleased to offer you this incredible adaptation that highlights the greater story of God’s redeeming love. We hope this Family Activity Guide will help you bring that story more alive in the hearts of your children.

SCROOGE - Episode 1 Cutting Corners

BIG IDEA

God shares His blessings with those who share their blessings.

ACTIVITY ITEMS

Paper, square or rectangle-shaped
Scissors
Markers

SET THE STAGE

Today in the story we saw Scrooge being selfish with everything he had.

- What do you think it means to be selfish?
- Is it okay to enjoy the things God has provided for you?
- What is something you have that you really enjoy?
- How do you know when you are being selfish with it and not just enjoying what you have?

Let's talk about what happened when Scrooge is asked for something from his neighbors, his clerk and his nephew.

- What were some of the blessings that belonged to Scrooge? (his money, his time, his house, his business)
- How did he use them for himself?
- How was Scrooge selfish with his blessings? (would not spend money on the poor, no coal for clerk's office)
- Why did he not want to share his blessings with others? (less for himself, fear of not having enough, not caring about others)

Listen to what the Bible says:

Proverbs 11:24-25 One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Scrooge did not give freely. Instead, he withheld what he had that could have blessed others. The Bible says that those who withhold what they could and should share become poor. He had lots of money, but in what ways was he poor? (poor relationships, poor in family connections, poor in happiness, poor in respect)

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ACTIVITY

It can be hard to share the things we have, especially if we think by giving, we lose something valuable. Let's think about the things we have that we enjoy and would not want to lose. Each one of you, take a piece of paper. Let's fold the paper in half. Now fold it in half again. Now open it and you can see you have four squares. Now, in each of the squares, draw a picture of something you have that you enjoy but could also be shared. (if they need prompts, you could suggest a piggy bank or other item to represent money they have, toys, a clock to represent time, a gift they have like singing or telling jokes, etc.)

Tell all of us about your pictures. What are the blessings you drew that you enjoy and could even share?

Now, each of you count how many corners are on your piece of paper. (there are 4) Yes, four. So, let's say that four represents how much you have to share.

- What if I ask you to cut a corner off to share with me something on your paper?
- Which one would you like to share? Why?
- Are you worried that if you share it with me, you won't have enough for you?

Go ahead and cut that corner and hand it to me. Now, look at your paper. How many corners are on your paper? (5) That's right. You cut one corner off but somehow you have more than you did before you shared with me. What if you share some of your _____ (time, toys, whatever is on their paper) with me? Now how many corners do you have? 6! Would you share your _____ with me? Wow, now you have 7 corners. You have one more thing you could share. Will you cut the corner of your _____ and share with me? Now how many corners do you have? 8!

If you kept cutting corners off your blessings paper, you would keep getting more corners. That is what it is like when we are generous with what God has given us. The more we give, the more blessings God gives so that we can enjoy and share

Listen to what Jesus said.

Luke 6:38 "Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."

SCROOGE - Episode 1 Cutting Corners

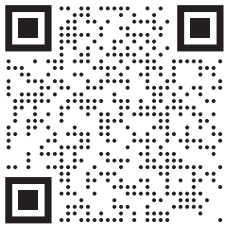
ACTIVITY

- Do you think you could ever outgive God?
- Why do you think God waits to give some blessings until we first give to others?

God doesn't always give us back exactly what we share with others. He is creative! So we don't expect money from God just because we share money. Or more toys when we share toys. But we can trust that God says that when we share, He gives more to share! So we can be on the look out for good things that God sends our way and then we can have fun thinking how we can share those, too!

LET'S PRAY and thank God for all the good things He gives us and ask Him to show us who we can share our blessings with.

SCAN QR CODE FOR BONUS SCIENCE ACTIVITY



SCROOGE - Episode 2 Rocking the Joy

BIG IDEA

God's good care keeps yesterday's hurts from stealing today's joy

ACTIVITY ITEMS

Backpack full of stones and rocks
Paint or paint pens
Supplies to paint rocks
Small obstacle course
Stopwatch
Place to set out a stone garden design

SET THE STAGE

Today, we heard about the sad things that happened in Scrooge's life when he was younger and how, instead of letting them go, he held onto them. He let his past disappointments steal his joy.

- What would you say it means to be disappointed? (being upset because things did not go the way you wanted)
- When have you been disappointed or had your feelings hurt?
- How is that different than a tragedy? (a tragedy is something very bad that happens that causes suffering)

Scrooge was disappointed that his father did not take better care of him. His feelings were hurt when his girl he was going to marry ended their engagement. But he also suffered a tragedy when his dear sister died. These were all hard things that happened. And each time something painful happened, (Have a stone in your hand, and pull out the backpack full of stones – it should be a little bit heavy) Scrooge carried it around in his heart until the hard thing made his heart hard. (put the new stone in the backpack full of stone) His load of sadness was so heavy.

- Who wants to wear this backpack? (Let the kids take turns putting on the heavy pack.)
- What would it feel like if you had to carry this around all day long or go to sleep with it on your back?

Everything is harder when you carry around your sadness and your disappointments. Let's test that out.

SCROOGE - Episode 2 Rocking the Joy

ACTIVITY

We have an obstacle course set up (inside or outside). First, you get to run the obstacle course as fast as you can. Then you get to run it again, but you must wear this heavy backpack. I'm going to time both runs, and we will see what happens. (Make the course long enough for there to be a measurable difference in carrying the backpack. You can have them wear it or carry it, whichever you think will slow them down more. This should be a fun time of cheering them on and laughter.)

After each child has run the course without and with the backpack ask, share their times and ask:

- Was it harder to run the course carrying the weight of the stones?
- If carrying around all the old hurts and disappointments from yesterday makes today harder, how do we stop carrying them? (even if their time was the same it would have been harder to run with all that weight)

Hard things happen, and they do hurt, but God says that we can keep the past from stealing our joy today by trusting that God can work things out so that even the bad works together for some good.

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

Let's think about Scrooge's life. If Scrooge had trusted God with his hurts, what good from God could he have experienced even after when his sister died? (he had a chance to be like a father to his nephew and gain a son instead of being lonely)

God is always at work! And because He loves us so much, He promises not to let the bad things we suffer be the last word. When we trust Him, and share our sadness with Him, it's like we hand over our backpack full of stones so that he can make something beautiful out of them.

Let's see what new thing we can make out of the stones in our backpack.

(If you filled the backpack with pre-painted/colored stones, move to the garden step. If they are plain stones, have the kids paint the stones in different colors.



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Encourage them to use all the colors. When all the stones are painted, take them to a flower bed or someplace they can lay the stones out in a design.)

Let's take all our stones and try to make a beautiful picture out of them in our garden. (heart, flower shape, butterfly, etc. Make a design that mixes all the colors as part of the overall good pattern you create together.) Wow, this looks great. Each rock is really important in bringing the whole picture together into something beautiful. That is how God works in our lives. Let's think about the brown and blue stones (or choose any two colors) as the hard things in life that make us sad. (you can even personalize it here... this one is when our dog died, this one is when you lost the game, this one is when your friend moved away...or ask them what things each stone might represent) Let's say the yellow are things we have to do, like school and chores (ask: what chore should this one be?). The pink and red, (etc.) are the fun times we enjoy (ask: what fun things the rocks might be).

God takes them all, good and bad, and He is always at work, bringing them all together to create good and beautiful lives for us. So, we can either carry around the things that hurt us, making it hard to enjoy life right now, or we can give all those hard things we suffered to God and trust Him to bring about good at the right time.

Trusting God means we don't have to let the sorrow from yesterday steal our joy today. We let the sorrow go, and look ahead to how God will work them together to bring us good. Joy comes in trusting God today and tomorrow.

Psalm 118:24 This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

LET'S PRAY and thank God that He makes all things work together for our good.

SCROOGE - Episode 3 The Grudge Match

BIG IDEA

Holding a Grudge Holds Back
Blessing

ACTIVITY ITEMS

Air or helium-filled balloons
Washable markers
Light-colored t-shirts
Plate, fork, and cup
Board game set up to play
Various clothing accessories

SET THE STAGE

Today in the story we learned that Scrooge held a big grudge against his father. What would you say a grudge is? (A grudge is when you stay mad at someone for something they've done, and you don't want to forgive them. It's like carrying a heavy feeling in your heart.)

- What are some things that we give up when we hold a grudge?
- When the Spirit of Christmas Present took Scrooge to the Christmas celebrations at the homes of his nephew and his clerk, how did other people describe him? (tight-fisted, mean-spirited, less-than-likable)

ACTIVITY

Let's play a game and see if we can figure out why Scrooge's grudge made him into a "less-than-likable" person. (Have kids put on a clean white t-shirt or any light-colored t-shirt. You can even turn a printed t-shirt inside out to the plain side. Set out washable markers and helium-filled balloons with a string on the end (one for each child). If you don't have access to helium, use plain air-filled balloons. Also set out a stack of fun clothing accessories: scarves, gloves, hats, nice shoes, hair bows, etc.)

Let's start by making ourselves some grudge balloons. Use different colored washable markers to write on the balloon several things that could make you hold a grudge. You can even draw pictures. (As kids write and draw, talk to them about the hurts they depict. Be sure to validate that some things are hurtful, unfair or wrong. You can even share how something they write is something you have experienced. Let them take their time. The goal is to think about the kinds of things that cause us to be resentful or bitter against

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other people. You want the balloon to have plenty of marker on it for the next step in the game.)

Wow, your balloons are really weighted down with hurtful things. I can see how these would make us carry a grudge. In fact, that is what you are going to do. Put both hands on your grudge balloon and get ready to carry it. Hold it tight and remember, you must keep both hands on it because grudges are heavy. Now, holding the balloons, let's do some fun things together. (With each thing they try, point out how they are not fully able to do these enjoyable things well while holding the grudge)

- Pull out a chair and sit at the dinner table. (Have a fork and some fruit on a plate.)
- I know you like to help. Get mom a glass of water.
- Here, have this piece of wrapped candy.
- Sit on the floor in front of the board game and let's play.
- Pet the cat/dog.
- Hug your sibling (or mom or dad).

Let's try something else. Scrooge missed out on fun parties with his family and neighbors. Let's pretend to dress up for a party. Put on the fun clothes that are laid out, but remember, you are still carrying your grudge. (There should be lots of laughs as they try to figure out how to put on some of the fun clothes and accessories you laid out without the use of their hands. Maybe even take some pictures of their attempts. After a few minutes, call for an end to the game.)

END THE GAME: Good try everyone, but that did not work out very well, did it? There were so many things you couldn't do – and OH NO, look at your hands and your shirt. Your grudge has left ugly marks all over you.

- Did you expect the grudge to rub off all over you?
- What did it feel like not to be able to do the fun things together?

Grudges might feel good when we first hold them, but they soon rub off on us with unkind feelings and bitterness that get in the way of good things we could be enjoying. The grudge keeps us from putting on the good and likable qualities that God says are

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important, qualities that make us and other people happy.

Here's what His word says:

Colossians 3:12-14 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Just like you couldn't put on those great clothes while holding your grudge balloon, we can't put on the great qualities of Jesus when we don't forgive others. How can we be kind if we are angry? How can we have compassion when we really want revenge? How can we put on love when we are already wearing bitterness? God wants to bless us with good relationships and a happy life that comes when we put on the same qualities Jesus had. But first, we have to put off grudges. Listen to this verse from God's word.

Ephesians 4:31-5:1 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander (speaking badly about others), as well as all types of evil behavior...

Now listen to the rest of that verse:

...Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. Imitate (act like God acts toward others) God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.

Forgiveness is how we let go of grudges! When we remember how much God has forgiven us, without holding a grudge against us, we can see that it is wrong for us to hold a grudge against other people. Then we are free to enjoy all the good blessings we have in our lives. Let's go outside and let our grudge balloons go. (or pop them if they are air-filled instead of helium. As you let the balloons go.) The grudge is gone! When we truly forgive someone, the grudge goes with it. And we are the ones set free to enjoy all the blessings God wants us to grab hold of. So how about we pray and then go (play that game, or have that dinner, or eat that candy) you missed out on earlier?

LET'S PRAY and thank God that because He forgives us, we can forgive other people.

SCROOGE - Episode 4 A Chain Reaction

BIG IDEA

God's love changes our past, present, and future by breaking the chains of sin.

ACTIVITY ITEMS

2 or 3 sets of Dominos or blocks
Reserve 10 dominos and label:
5 Sin, 1 with God on one side and back square on the other, 1 Jesus, 3 New Life. (or have labels ready to put on after using them for the first activity)

SET THE STAGE

Today in the story, we saw what happened when Scrooge got to look into the future to the time after his death.

- Why do you think that no one missed him after he died? (he was never nice, he was harsh to the people who owed his business money, he never shared, he used mean words)
- What was one thing that you think started Scrooge's life of bitterness? (being poor, his father's rejection, working too much)

ACTIVITY

In Scrooge's life, one bitter choice led to another and then to another in a long chain of unhappiness until he was a lonely old man who no one missed. Today, let's make our own chain – a domino chain. Let's see how long we can make our line of dominos and then we will see what happens when we tip the first one over. (Be creative in setting the dominos up. They can go under a couch, in a circle, etc. Have fun working together. If you only have one set, then let each child design a path in turns. Once it is set up, have fun setting the domino chain in motion. Once the domino fun is over, talk about your activity.)

- Can you describe what happened to our dominos? (they all fell into each other, one falling made them all fall...) What was the best part?

What we just saw with our dominos is called a "chain reaction"... when one thing happens and sets off the next thing that happens, and that sets off the next thing. Say that with me, "a chain reaction." There is something in our lives that starts a chain reaction, just like the dominos. Each one of us starts our chain reaction with the same thing– we can call it our sin domino. (hold up one of your dominos labeled "sin") Sin is a Bible word that means

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ACTIVITY

doing or saying things that make God unhappy. The Bible says that because Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, disobeyed God, they passed sin down to all of us. Every person is born with the sin quality inside our hearts: boys and girls, moms and dads, and even grandmas and grandpas are born with sin. This is what God's true word says:

Psalm 51:5 (International Children's Bible) I was brought into this world in sin. In sin my mother gave birth to me.

That means that even when we were little bitty babies firstborn, we were carrying sin around in our hearts. But as we grow, we also choose to do sinful things – that means we choose to do things that make God unhappy.

- How could a boy or girl choose sin? (To help them see themselves as a personal sinner, ask follow-up questions.)
- Have you ever disobeyed your parents?
- Have you ever hit your brother or sister?
- Have you ever said something that was not true? (As they give answers, set out more "sin" dominos in a chain.)

Each life builds a sin chain, just like we are building a sin chain here. Where do you think it will lead? (get their ideas) Let's see what God's word tells us about where sin leads.

Isaiah 59:2 (NASB) But your wrongdoings have caused a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

God is so good and so perfect He has to hide his face from sinners. The things that we do wrong keep us from being close to God. (Show them the domino that says God and one side and is black on the other. Then set the black domino in the chain.) Let's put our chain in motion and see what happens.

Oh my goodness. Our sin sets off a chain reaction that takes us far from God. But what can we do since we all have sinned, and sin keeps us from God? We need help! We can't do anything to stop the chain reaction of our sin, but guess what? Jesus can! Listen to what

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God's word says He can do for us that we can't do ourselves.

1 Peter 3:18 (NLT) Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.

Let's use our dominos to understand what the Bible says Jesus did for us. (Bring out the dominos labeled "Jesus," "New Life," and "God". Nothing can change that we start in sin or that we all choose to sin. Set up all the sin dominos again.) But when Jesus came, He did something we could not do. Since He never sinned, He could let the punishment for our sins fall onto Him. (Set the Jesus domino in the row.) If we choose to trust Jesus, the punishment we deserve for not obeying God falls on Him and our sins are forgiven. Now we get to live a new kind of life. We can choose to do the good things that make God happy. (Set up the "New Life" dominos and place the "God" domino at the end.) Let's see where trusting Jesus takes us. (Tip over the first domino.)

- What happened to the sin dominos? Where did they fall? (onto Jesus)
- Where did our chain end? (with God)

When Jesus is in our life chain, He takes us safely home to God. When we trust Jesus, God does not hide His face from us anymore. He forgives us and welcomes us as His friend. Best of all, when we trust Jesus, we have a new place with God forever and ever.

Jesus changes our past by forgiving our sins. He changes our present by helping us live in a new way to please Him. And he changes our future by giving us the hope of life with Him forever.

LET'S PRAY and thank God that He sent His son Jesus to give us a new future.

